



Coalition Seeks Additional \$10 Million for Parks and Habitat

Funding Would Raise Biennial WWRP Budget to \$60 Million

Washington's population is growing by 100,000 new residents per year, increasing demand for new parks and trails and driving new development into wildlife habitat. Meanwhile land costs for new parks and public habitat lands are skyrocketing, yet it's been twelve years since funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program last broke \$60 million.

This winter the Coalition is asking the state legislature for an additional \$10 million for thirty-one Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) projects. In the 2005 legislative session the Coalition secured \$50 million in the Capital Budget for seventy-five WWRP grants. An additional \$10 million would raise the total two-year WWRP budget to \$60 million for the first time since 1993.

Proposed projects include...

Critical Habitat: Cowiche and Skookumchuck Watersheds, Upper Yakima R. Floodplain

Natural Areas: Cypress Is., Selah Cliffs

Urban Wildlife Habitat: Woodard Bay, Gazzam Lake

State Parks: Green R. Gorge, Deception Pass, Cape Disappointment

Local Parks: Pacific Park, Lower Woodland Skate Park, Hansen Park, Pend Oreille Co. Park, N. Ambaum Park, Eagle Creek Park, Kettle Falls Water/Skate Park, Wedge Park, Spokane Co. Aquatic Facility, W. Hill Park

Trails: Hansville Greenway, Cushman, Olympic Discovery, Issaquah-High Pt., Larry Scott Memorial, Chehalis R. Walkway

Water Access: Blakely Harbor, So. Lake Union Park, Tim's Pond, Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront



Bainbridge Island Parks

Blakely Harbor is one of three Kitsap County projects that would be funded with an additional \$10 million.

LAND NEWS



Dorrie Powell

Coalition members will gather in Olympia to seek more funding for parks and habitat.

Support New Parks and Habitat Protection

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition Legislative Reception

Thursday, February 9, 2006

5:30 – 7:30 PM

The Woman's Club

1002 Washington St. SE, Olympia

Suggested donation \$25

RSVP to Amelia@WildlifeRecreation.org

or (206) 748-0082

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New WWRP Grants for Farmland & Riparian Areas

State Funds Available for Working Farms and Salt & Fresh Water Habitat

Legislation passed last year creates grants to conserve vanishing farmland and to protect the state's rivers, lakes, streams, and saltwater areas, helping to ensure that our waters remain clean and healthy for generations to come.

The law adds two new categories to the highly acclaimed Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), the first major amendments to the program since its inception in 1990.

Under the new Riparian Protection category any local government may apply for WWRP grants to protect and/or restore shorelines, rivers, streams, estuaries and other waterways. The funds can be used to protect the lands along these waterways or the waterways themselves and for projects as wide-ranging as cleaning up a polluted river to protecting a watershed so as to keep it ecologically healthy.

WWRP Farmland Conservation grants will be available to help counties conserve working

farms, lands that will stay in private hands and remain active agricultural enterprises for generations to come. In most Washington counties these new farmland grants will be the only funding source for farm conservation easements (other than a small share of the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program).

The quantity and quality of the applications for these new categories is critical to the ongoing success of the WWRP grant program as a whole. In 2007 the Coalition will ask legislators to significantly increase funding for WWRP grants, including the two new categories.

Administered by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), final applications for WWRP grants are due May 1st, 2006. For more information see the IAC's website at www.iac.wa.gov.



Leveraging Public Funds to Protect Washington's Parks, Habitat and Working Farms

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Washington's Parks and Habitat Grow with WWRP Grants



Pierce Co. Parks

Skateboarders of all abilities are enjoying the new facilities at the LeMay Skateboard Park.

Spanaway Welcomes Skateboarders of All Levels

A tremendous crowd of nearly 400 skateboarders and their families turned out recently for the dedication of the Harold LeMay Skateboard Park at the Sprinker Recreation Facility in Spanaway. \$275,000 in WWRP funds matched community raised funds to build a 27,000 square foot park that includes features for advanced, intermediate and beginning skateboarders. The facility also includes picnic tables and an ADA pathway so families can enjoy the park together.



Seattle Parks

Seattle residents enjoy leisurely weekend afternoons at Cal Anderson Park in Seattle.

Popular Seattle Park Updated to Meet Growing Community's Needs

Seattle's Capitol Hill community celebrated the opening of Cal Anderson Park in September. The park was updated with a WWRP grant of \$300,000 that matched local community funds to build a children's play area, open lawns, paths for walking and jogging, a gazebo, park benches and landscaping.

Dream of New Skate Park in Bremerton Realized

A dedication in November celebrated the collaboration between an organization called "Bremerton's Skateboarders and Supporters United" and Bremerton Parks Department. Together they created a new skate park, replacing worn out wooden modular equipment that had become unsafe and had to be removed. A WWRP grant of \$140,000 was awarded for this number one ranked WWRP local park project in 2005.

Visitors Connect with Poulsbo's Past

A WWRP grant of \$56,487 matched funds raised by the city of Poulsbo to restore Oyster Plant Pier and enhance waterfront access to Liberty Bay, the city's only water access on the southwest side of town. The pier includes signs that describe the cultural and natural history of the area, serves as a boat launch for canoes and kayaks, and is a great place for watching wildlife.



Sunny Walker

Visitors can enjoy some of North America's greatest ecological wonders at Sun Lakes Dry Falls State Park.

Campsites Give More Visitors Access to Grant County's Natural Wonders

In October, Washington State Parks recognized the WWRP grant program for providing nearly \$1.5 million for 31 new campsites in Sun Lakes Dry Falls State Park at a dedication ceremony in Grant County. Since 2001, the WWRP has provided over \$3.8 million to expand this spectacular state park that overlooks a desert oasis with cliffs, lakes and abundant wildlife.

Trail Provides Community Connectivity

A new phase of the Shoreline Interurban Trail was dedicated in September. This regional trail connects residents to shopping, bus routes and jobs; and it provides a safe place to bike along busy Aurora Avenue. The WWRP has provided more than \$3 million in funding for the development of the trail.

\$10 Million more for the WWRP in 2006 will Fund 31 Parks, Trails, Beaches and Habitat Areas



Wa. Dept. of Natural Resources

The Selah Cliffs area is habitat for Prairie Falcons and Golden Eagles.

Selah Cliffs Natural Area, Yakima Co.

Worldwide, the basalt daisy only occurs in the Yakima River Canyon and the adjacent Selah River Canyon. In order to preserve Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle habitat and protect one of the only remaining populations of basalt daisy, Wa. Dept. of Natural Resources seeks \$1.1 million in WWRP funding for 289 acres.

Cape Disappointment Seaview Dunes, Pacific Co.

Wa. State Parks seeks \$981,235 to purchase ten acres threatened by development so that visitors along the



Sunny Walter

Visitors to the Seaview Dunes area enjoy one of the last undeveloped portions of the Long Beach Peninsula.

Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail, can continue to enjoy the unobstructed scenic views of the Pacific Coast that these early explorers experienced.

Pend Oreille County Park

With support from local volunteers and the Back Country Horsemen, Pend Oreille County seeks \$110,775 to improve 8 miles of equestrian and hiking trail and to build a picnic shelter, barbecues, parking, and restrooms for this popular park so that visitors can experience a more enjoyable day of horseback riding.

Spokane County Aquatic Facility

Spokane County's community pool is outdated and has no water features. Volunteers have donated hundreds of hours and the property owner has donated \$122,187 towards the addition of a slide to the new 3400 sq. ft. pool currently under construction. The county seeks \$74,913 to build this much-desired slide.

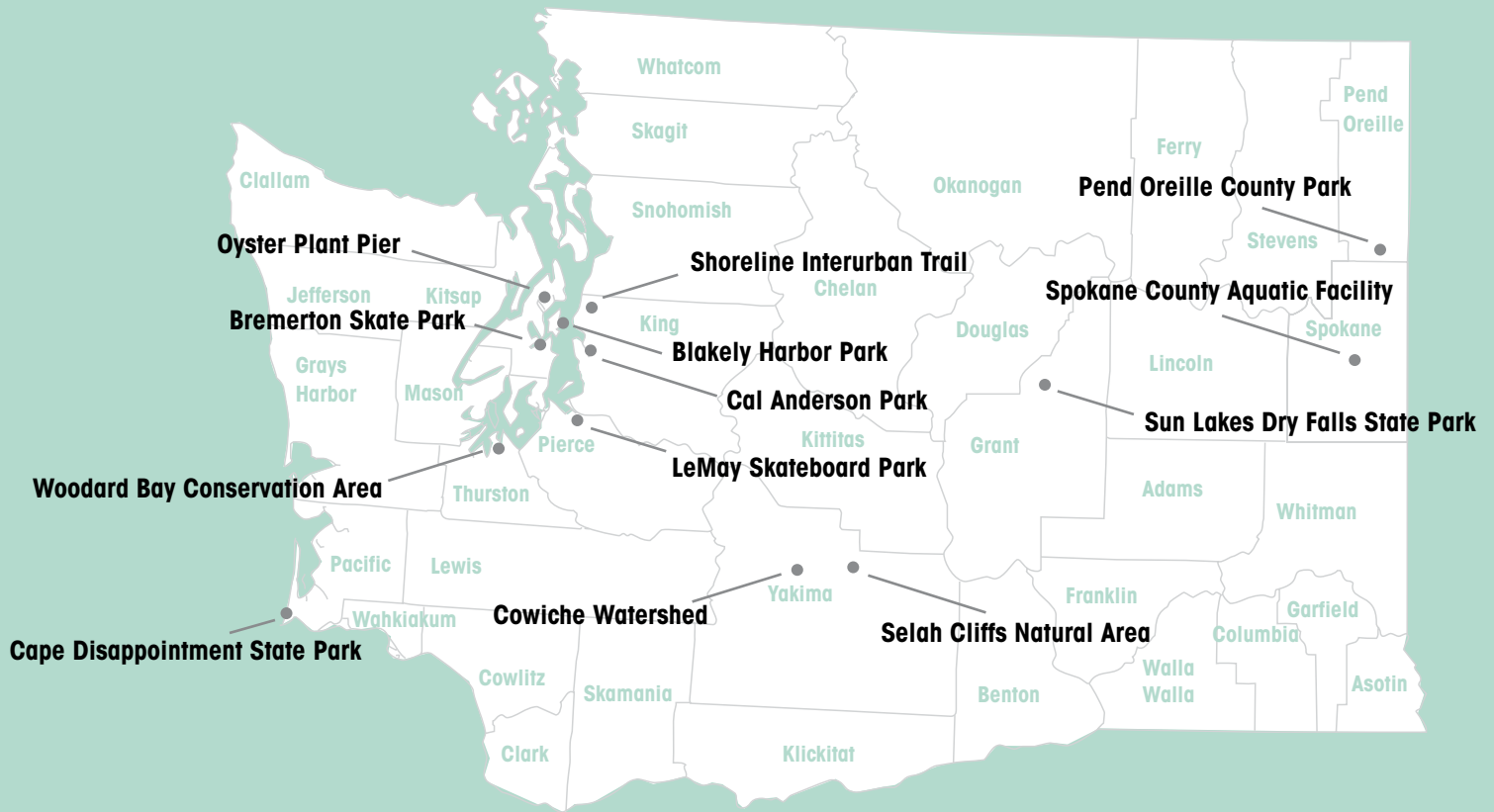
Woodard Bay Conservation Area, Thurston Co.

Environmental signs and nature trails are posted along wooded trails and wetlands, encouraging visitors to learn about conservation and to view



Sunny Walter

Spokane County residents have requested a waterslide like this one, to make their new pool even more fun.



LAND ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT

SELECTED PROJECTS

the myriad of wildlife that calls Woodard Bay home. Wa. DNR seeks \$1.5 million for 116 acres to protect the habitat for shorebirds, songbirds, bald eagles, river otters and the largest harbor seal nursery in south Puget Sound. To date, the WWRP has provided \$6.1 million to protect habitat and to build walking and equestrian trails at this urban wildlife preserve.

Cowiche Watershed, Yakima Co.

With the support of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wa. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife requests a total of \$2.3 million in WWRP funds to protect 4,640 acres that are threatened by development. A wide variety of species including steelhead, bull trout, elk, mule deer and golden eagle are supported by the diverse wetland, shrub steppe, oak woodland, cliff and talus habitats.



Wa. Dept of Natural Resources

Woodard Bay, in South Puget Sound, offers visitors exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing and environmental education.



Sunny Walker

Cowiche Watershed provides habitat for bull trout, steelhead, elk, mule deer and bighorn sheep.

“Evening in the Wild” Raises More Than \$60,000

The Coalition’s fall reception, the Evening in the Wild, was held on November 16, at the Burke Museum. The event featured a special program where more than 180 guests learned about the work of the Coalition. The event, underwritten by

14 corporate and 15 individual sponsors, raised more than \$60,000. Thank you to all of our sponsors, in-kind donors, and guests who made this event a success!

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Event guests enjoyed a presentation on some of the 700 parks, trails, beaches and wildlife habitat areas protected with funds leveraged by the Coalition.



Contest participants, Lisa Pelly and Kathe Fowler, learned more about the WWRP and how the grant program funds parks and habitat statewide.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to the following donors who contributed between July 1 and December 31, 2005.

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The Coalition leverages public funds to protect Washington's parks, habitat and working farms.

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What Can You Do?

Do you have a favorite local beach or natural area where you enjoy kayaking or bird watching? A favorite playground or ball field where you take your kids? A favorite walking or biking trail? Many of your treasured outdoor recreation areas and natural spaces were funded through the most significant state-wide land acquisition program in Washington's history, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

Learn What's at Stake

Request a list of the new parks and wildlife habitat that the Coalition is working to protect in your area by contacting us at info@WildlifeRecreation.org or (206) 748-0082

Contact Your State Legislators

Ask your legislators to support a \$10 million increase for WWRP park and habitat grants in the Capital Budget, raising the two year total to \$60 million. Don't know who your legislators are? To find out visit, www.leg.wa.gov or call the Legislative Hotline at (800) 562-6000.

Subscribe to Our E-Newsletter

Email us at info@WildlifeRecreation.org to receive the Coalition's electronic newsletter and legislative alerts. We'll keep you informed about funding for parks, habitat and working farms!

Join the Coalition

The Coalition relies on your support. We do not receive any of the funding that we lobby for in Olympia, so please send in your membership contribution today and your donation will leverage millions for the protection of parks and habitat!

What's Inside

WWRP Now Includes Farm and Riparian Protection!

\$10 Million Needed for 30 Parks and Habitat Areas

New Parks Dedicated Around the State

Event Raises \$60,000 for Parks, Habitat and Working Farms



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